

HONORING SENATOR GROVER  
FORD BOWERS, JR.

## HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true friend to our Nation and the State of South Carolina. Friday, July 7, 2006, saw the sad passing of Grover Ford Bowers, Jr. Senator Bowers was born in Luray, South Carolina, in Hampton County on November 20, 1919. He was a son of the late Grover Ford Bowers, Sr. and Corinne Fitts Bowers. He graduated from Estill High School and the University of South Carolina. He was a member of Luray Christian Church where he served as finance chairman. He was also a member of Estill Masonic Lodge and the Society of 1824. Senator Bowers was a United States Marine Corps Veteran of World War II, having served on the Island of Tinian in the 18th Anti-Aircraft Artillery. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. He then became the co-founder of Harper & Bowers Inc. in 1947. After retirement in 1976, he remained actively involved in both agri-business and politics. Senator Bowers served in the South Carolina Senate from 1962–1966 and was the last Senator from Hampton County. He served as a member of the Board of Visitors of Clemson University and The Medical University of South Carolina, as well as various State Commissions including: State Ethics Commission, State ASCS Commission, S.C. Highway Commission, State Transportation Commission and State Forestry Commission. In 1978 Senator Bowers was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor James B. Edwards.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Macie Tison Bowers, his 3 children, Martha B. Simons and her husband, Dr. Paul K. Simons; Grover F. Bowers III and his wife, Derbiana Peeples Bowers; William T. Bowers and his wife, Julia Roman Bowers. His 7 grandchildren include Caroline S. Chase and husband, Samuel Chase III, Paul K. Simons Jr., Grover F. Bowers IV, Hunter T. Bowers, Margaret E. Bowers, William T. Bowers and Charles R. Bowers. Senator Bowers also has one great grandson, Samuel M. Chase IV. He was preceded in death by two brothers, DeTreville F. Bowers and Corrin F. Bowers.

He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Ms. Mary Eleanor Bowers of Estill, South Carolina. Ms. Bowers served as the Estill Office Special Assistant of the Second Congressional District until her retirement. Before that she served on the staff of the late Congressman Floyd Spence and was initially added to service by Congressman Arthur Ravenel.

THE DEFINITION OF TYRANNY;  
LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE  
BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND THE  
REPUBLICAN ENABLERS IN CON-  
GRESS

## HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, if Franz Kafka were writing his famous novel *The Trial* today,

he might find his inspiration in what is happening in America. In *The Trial* a man named Josef K awakens one morning and, for reasons never revealed, is arrested and subjected to the rigors of a bizarre judicial process for an unspecified crime. The agents who arrest him never tell him under what or whose authority he is being arrested. He is ultimately executed never knowing what he has done.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a column by Bob Herbert entitled “The Definition of Tyranny” which appeared in the July 17, 2006 edition of *The New York Times*. The subject of Mr. Herbert’s article is the Bush Administration’s response to the Supreme Court’s holding in *Hamdan vs. Rumsfeld* that the military tribunals in use at Guantánamo Bay were illegal. The President was not authorized by Congress, nor did he have the power under Title II of the Constitution, to make law for the tribunals or for the treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay even though the country was engaged, he argued, in a “war on terror.” The Court also faulted the President’s failure to apply Article III of the Geneva Conventions in its treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay.

In response, the President has requested that the Congress make legal what the Court found illegal. This response brought to my mind the situation in which Josef K found himself in *The Trial*. I enter this article by Mr. Herbert for the edification of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From the *New York Times*, July 17, 2006]

### THE DEFINITION OF TYRANNY

(By Bob Herbert)

Congress is dithering and the American public doesn’t even seem particularly concerned as the administration of George W. Bush systematically trashes such fundamental American values as justice, due process, respect for human rights and submission to the rule of law.

In the kangaroo courts that the administration concocted to try detainees at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, a defendant could be prevented from seeing the evidence against him, would not have the right to attend his own trial and would not have the right to appeal the sentence to a civilian court.

That’s slapstick justice, a process worthy of the Marx Brothers.

“You have been accused of being a terrorist.”

“Where is the evidence?”

“We can’t show it to you.”

“That’s ridiculous.”

“So is this court. We find you guilty. Take him away.”

The Supreme Court now says, in a vote that was closer than it should have been, that this sort of madness cannot be permitted. In its recent decision striking down the tribunals for terror suspects at Guantánamo, the court said of the defendant, Salim Ahmed Hamdan: “He will be, and indeed already has been, excluded from his own trial.”

The court said, in effect, that this is not the American way, that ours is not a Marx Brothers republic. Not yet, anyway. (It most likely will be if Mr. Bush gets to appoint one or two more justices to the court.)

The Bush-Cheney regime believes it can do whatever outlandish things it wants, including torturing people and keeping them incarcerated for life without even the semblance of due process. And it’s not giving up. The administration now wants Congress to authorize what the Supreme Court has plainly said was wrong. White House lawyers, in a

torturous (pun intended) interpretation of the court’s ruling, seem to be arguing that the kangaroo courts, otherwise known as military commissions, will be quite all right if only Congress will say so.

They’re not all right. They’re an abomination (like the secret C.I.A. prisons and the practice of extraordinary rendition) that spits in the face of the idea that the United States is a great and civilized nation.

“Can you imagine if the Hamdan decision, among others, had gone the other way?” said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has been waging an extraordinary fight to secure basic legal protections for prisoners at Guantánamo. “I mean we’d be looking at a dark nightmare.”

The court’s decision brought into sharp relief the importance of one of the most fundamental aspects of American government, the separation of powers. Checks and balances. The judicial branch put a halt—a check—on a gruesomely illegal practice by the executive.

Mr. Bush has tried to scrap the very idea of checks and balances. The Republican-controlled Congress has, for the most part, rolled over like trained seals for the president. And Mr. Bush is trying mightily to pack the courts with right-wingers who will do the same. Under those circumstances, his will becomes law.

Justice John Paul Stevens, who wrote the majority opinion in the Hamdan case, referred to a seminal quote from James Madison. The entire quote is as follows: “The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

As the center noted in a recent report, “The U.S. government has employed every possible tactic to evade judicial review of its detention and interrogation practices in the ‘war on terror,’ including allegations that U.S. personnel subject prisoners to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.”

There is every reason to be alarmed about the wretched road that Bush, Cheney et al. are speeding along. It is as if they were following a route deliberately designed to undermine a great nation.

A lot of Americans are like spoiled rich kids who take their wealth for granted. Too many of us have forgotten—or never learned—the real value of the great American ideals. Too many are standing silently by as Mr. Bush and his cronies engage in the kind of tyrannical and uncivilized behavior that has brought so much misery—and ultimately ruin—to previous societies.

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM  
VETMEDICA, INC.

## HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. in St. Joseph, Missouri as it celebrates its 25 year anniversary. This company is a subsidiary of Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation, one of the world’s 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.’s involvement has impacted all areas of the St. Joseph, Missouri community for the past 25 years.